

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
/089 W

-----210542Z 106465 /23

R 201644Z MAY 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2147
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJVAIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0247

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 16-22

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FIRST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
CURRENT ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS
TOOK PLACE MAY 17. IN IT, EASTERN REPS SAID THAT WESTERN
REFUSAL TO AGREE TO THE SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF NATIONAL
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MILITARY MANPOWER FIGURES FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT WAS
AN OBSTACLE TO THE FURTHER ANALYSIS OF DATA ALREADY PRESENTED
BY EAST AND WEST. WESTERN REPS REJECTED THIS CHARGE,
NOTED THEIR OWN PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO ACONSIDERATION OF
FIGURES FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA AND SAID
THEIR AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO PROCEED
IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF EAST AND WEST AS

TO WHAT THE NEXT STEP IN THE DATA DISCUSSION SHOULD BE
END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE MAY 17 INFORMAL SESSION, THE FIRST OF THE
TWELFTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS,
EASTERN REPS SAID DATA TABLED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWED THAT
THERE WAS APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT
FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THAT WESTERN ESTIMATES OF
PACT FORCES TO THE CONTRARY WERE WRONG. THEY TERMED
WESTERN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR THE
SIMULTANEOUS INTRODUCTION OF SEPARATE MILITARY MANPOWER TOTALS
FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT AN ARTIFICIAL OBSTACLE TO FURTHER
DATA ANALYSIS. EASTERN REPS CONFIRMED THEIR READINESS TO
CONTINUE TO DISCUSS DATA, BUT SAID THE WEST SHOULD RECONSIDER
THE FALLACIOUS BASIS OF ITS ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT PERSONNEL
STRENGTH. WESTERN REPS REJECTED THE CHARGE THAT THE WEST WAS
BLOCKING THE DATA DISCUSSION, REAFFIRMED THEIR CONVICTION THAT
IT MUST BE PURSUED IN ORDER TO RESOLVE DISCREPANCIES AND
ESTABLISH AGREED FIGURES FOR COMPUTING REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS
AND POSED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING EASTERN DATA. THEY
NOTED THE WEST PROPOSAL TO TABLE DATA ON US AND
SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND THE EASTERN ONE
TO TABLE FIGURES FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT AND SAID THAT
WESTERN AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO PROCEED IN THE
LIGHT OF THESE TWO PROPOSALS.

3. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE MAY 17 INFORMAL SESSION,
EASTERN REPS PRESSED THE MERITS OF THEIR PROPOSAL THAT
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL
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STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA FOR
THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY REFERRED TO THE
CONCEPT OF CARRYING OUT REDUCTIONS IN TWO STAGES, WITH FIRST-
STAGE REDUCTIONS CONFINED TO US AND SOVIET FORCES,
AND WESTERN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO COVER NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS
IN AN AGREEMENT AS CONSTITUTING A SMALL AREA OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING.
EASTERN REPS CITED COLLECTIVE CEILINGS, THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE
IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND THE UNWILLINGNESS
OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CANADA TO COMMIT THEMSELVES
TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN A SECOND STAGE AS EXAMPLES OF
ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION WHICH FRUSTRATED PROGRESS
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WESTERN REPS REVIEWED THEIR REASONS FOR
PROPOSING COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS ON NATO AND WARSAW
PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA WITH SUBCEILINGS ON US
AND SOVIET FORCES. THEY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WEST'S
DECEMBER 1975 ADDITION TO ITS REDUCTION APPROACH AND MADE THE
POINT THAT THE EAST HAD SO FAR FAILED TO RESPOND SERIOUSLY TO
THAT WESTERN INITIATIVE.

4. HUNGARIAN REP FODOR MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MAY 20
PLENARY MEETING. HE SAID THAT IN THE COMPROMISE EASTERN PROPOSAL
OF FEBRUARY 1976 AND THE TABLING OF EASTERN DATA THE FOLLOWING
JUNE HAD ESTABLISHED THE BASIS FOR WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY
ACCEPTABLE FIRST AGREEMENT. FODOR PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE ABSENCE
OF FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON INFLEXIBLE WESTERN
ADHERENCE TO A POSITION PREMISED ON THE DEMONSTRABLY ERRONEOUS
THESIS OF FORCE DISPARITIES. HE CRITICIZED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS
FOR CONTINUING TO BUILDUP THEIR FORCES QUALATATIVELY AS WELL AS
QUANTITATIVELY. FODOR REFERRED TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE RECENT
NATO MEETING IN LONDON AND THE WESTERN REFUSAL TO AGREE TO AN
IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS INDICATING THAT
WESTERN INTEREST IN INCREASING NATO FORCES WAS GREATER THAN IN
NEGOTIATING THEIR REDUCTION AND LIMITATIONS. RESOR

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